

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SCA-01 CPR-01 L-02 SCS-03 NSC-05

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /047 W
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R 141722Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9301

INFO: RUFHJA/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 30

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

USMISSION BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 4001

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: OGEN, PFOR, GS, US

SUBJECT: UK-GDR CONSULAR CONVENTION

REF: STATE 48742, LONDON 1390

SUMMARY: GDR HAS ACCEPTED BRITISH LANGUAGE ON DEFINITION OF NATIONALITY AND ARE NOW PRESSING FOR FINAL NEGOTIATIONS AND INITIALING OF AGREEMENT. FRG HAS REQUESTED UK TO ISSUE STATEMENT ON NATIONALITY SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH ANNOUNCEMENT OF CONVENTION, BUT BRITISH ARE INTENT UPON RESTRICTING ANNOUNCEMENT TO EXCHANGE OF INFORMAL "LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING." FINAL ROUND IN EAST BERLIN FROM BRITISH SIDE LOOKS LIKE EARLY JUNE, BUT DATE MAY BE ADVANCED. END SUMMARY.

1. HEAD OF TREATIES DEPARTMENT IN FCO (DIXON) INFORMED EMBOFF MARCH 14 THAT GDR HAD ACCEPTED LANGUAGE ON THORNY NATIONALITY QUESTION WHICH BRITISH PROPOSED LAST NOVEMBER. LANGUAGE OF PERTINENT SECTION OF CONVENTION IS AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE: IN THE SENSE OF THIS CONVENTION THE FOLLOWING RANK AS "NATIONALS": 1. IN RELATION TO
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THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, EVERY PERSON WHO IN

ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC IS A CITIZEN OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC.
END QUOTE.

2. AT THE SAME TIME, GDR HAS URGED EARLY SCHEDULING OF
FINAL ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS IN EAST BERLIN. FCO IS
CURRENTLY HAVING SOME DIFFICULTY IN PROPOSING A DATE
AND EARLIEST POSSIBILITY DIXON FORESEES WOULD BE FIRST
WEEK OF JUNE. POLITICAL DEPARTMENT OF FCO (THAT IS, THE
GDR DESK) IS HOPEFUL DATE CAN BE ADVANCED.

3. DIXON ESTIMATES TWO WEEKS NEGOTIATION WILL BE RE-
QUIRED ON FINAL TEXT. PROBLEMS TO BE RESOLVED ARE
SETTLEMENT OF ESTATES, TAXATION, AND AGREEMENT ON
LANGUAGE ITSELF IN SOME SECTIONS. GDR HAS INDICATED
IT LAYS GREAT IMPORTANCE ON INITIALLING OF AGREED TEXT
AT CONCLUSION OF NEXT ROUND BY HEADS OF NEGOTIATING
TEAMS AND BRITISH ARE PREPARED TO GO ALONG WITH THIS,
THOUGH NOT EQUALLY INSISTENT ON THIS AS PROCEDURAL
MATTER SINCE TEXT WILL HAVE TO BE SUBMITTED TO OTHER
BRANCHES OF HMG BEFORE SIGNATURE.

4. WITH REGARD TO FRG, DIXON NOTED THAT ORIGINAL EFFORT
BY FRG HAD BEEN TO GET BRITISH TO AGREE TO EXCHANGE OF
FORMAL NOTES SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH SIGNATURE OF CONVEN-
TION. FCO HAS RESISTED THIS SINCE NOTE EXCHANGE WOULD
HAVE TO BE PUBLISHED AND THEY FELT THIS WOULD BE IN-
APPROPRIATE. BRITISH OFFERED FRG ORAL ASSURANCES, BUT
FRG DEMURRED AND ULTIMATE COMPROMISE FROM BRITISH SIDE
WAS AGREEMENT TO EXCHANGE OF INFORMAL "LETTER OF UNDER-
STANDING" ONE DAY AFTER CONVENTION SIGNATURE. BRITISH
HAVE TOLD FRG THEY WOULD PREFER LETTER NOT BE PUBLISHED,
BUT BRITISH EXPECT FRG WILL ASSURE PUBLICATION OF EX-
CHANGE FOR INTERNAL REASONS, WHICH MIGHT WELL FORCE HMG
TO PUBLISH IN UK AS WELL. FRG HAS ADAMANTLY RESISTED
BRITISH PREFERENCE FOR ORAL ASSURANCE, DIXON SAID.

5. DIXON ADDED THAT HMG IS ABOUT READY TO SIGN CZECH
CONSULAR CONVENTION AND IS READYING FINAL STAGES OF
AMENDMENT TO POLISH CONSULAR CONVENTION WHICH WILL LIKELY
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BE ANNOUNCED WHEN FOREIGN SECRETARY VISITS POLAND IN
JUNE.
RICHARDSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INSTRUCTIONS, CONSULAR AGREEMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LONDON04001
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750091-0222
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750350/aaaabsyx.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 48742, 75 LONDON 1390
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <12 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UK-GDR CONSULAR CONVENTION
TAGS: OGEN, PFOR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006